

Dear Honorable Members of the Maryland Senate,

My name is Anthony Capotosti. I am the owner and CEO The Bean Team Company LLC. We are Maryland-based hemp business that has multiple brick and mortar retail stores across Baltimore MD. I am writing to express my strong opposition to **section 36–1103** of the proposed bill 0516, Cannabis Reform Act, which would limit the overall THC content of products for human consumption or inhalation to no more than 0.5 milligrams of THC per serving, or 2.5 milligrams of THC per package.

My business partner and I opened our first CBD store in 2018 after experiencing the benefits these products had firsthand. My partner (Darrien Wilson) struggled for years with extreme separation anxiety to the point that I had to attend her college classes with her. The first few years we were together was difficult for both of us and we spent countless hours with specialists at John Hopkins and other university's trying to find a medication regimen that would work for Darrien. Unfortunately, we were unable to find something that was beneficial for her and eventually gave up.

That was until we found CBD. Darrien experienced so much relief through CBD products, and they had such a huge impact on her life so much so that she wanted to share these products with others. That's how our business was born.

We were both young (24 – 21) we took a break from college to pursue opening our business and like most new endeavors we went through many hurdles to be where we are today. Our first year in business we slept above our shop on a \$20.00 air mattress that we bought from Walmart and used a Styrofoam cooler as a makeshift AC unit. It was rough but every morning I would be reassured by Darrien that we were not in this business to make money. We were in this business to change people's lives for the better. Quality, education, and community are the Pillars of our business, and we take great pride in the products that we offer to our clients. We believe that our customers deserve the highest quality CBD products and education that is available on the market. And we strive each and every day to be the go-to store for products that are formulated to meet their individual needs, and we are committed to providing them with the best possible experience and safe/quality products.

Losing our business would not only impact my family and myself. It would drastically affect our community, our newest store Green Roots (Which cost us upwards of \$100,000 to open 6 months ago) is located in historic Dundalk (An area greatly affected by drugs and the war on cannabis) Our store provides this community with High quality, 3rd party lab tested products and we have become a staple in our area. We serve customers from all ages and walks of life. Many of our clients rely on these products to help with conditions like arthritis, Fibromyalgia, And chronic pain. Removing these products from them will do a drastic disservice to the individuals that you claim to represent.

Across all our locations we employ several individuals who rely on us for their livelihoods and for their family's lives. If we are forced to close it will have a huge impact on these individuals. I implore you to think of them as you make a decision that will change the course of their lives.

We believe in stricter regulation We have participated in, and are in full support of Bill HB-1207, which we believe clearly addresses all your potential concerns related to Delta8 and the limit of all THC content in Hemp based products. We are part of the group of good guys that are taking leaps and bounds to do this right, operate compliantly, and separate ourselves from all the bad actors in the industry.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the negative impact that this bill would have on our business and on our customers. We are committed to providing safe, effective, and high-quality CBD and Hemp products to our customers, and we believe that we have a valuable role to play in the Maryland hemp industry. I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of this bill, with amendments to section 36-1103, that support our industry and our customer's best interest.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Capotosti – Darrien Willson
Co-Founders of The Bean Team Company LLC